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EMPLOYMENT OF LABOR AT MARE ISLAND NAVY-YARD,  
ETC.

## MESSAGE

FROM THE

## PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

TRANSMITTING

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE NAVY DEPARTMENT AND THE  
WAR DEPARTMENT IN REFERENCE TO COMMUNICATIONS FROM  
MAYOR SCHMITZ, OF SAN FRANCISCO, AND FROM OTHER REP-  
RESENTATIVES OF CALIFORNIA.

APRIL 25, 1906.—Read; referred to the Committees on Naval Affairs, Military Affairs,  
and Public Buildings and Grounds, and ordered to be printed.

*To the Senate and House of Representatives:*

I herewith inclose communications from the Navy Department and the War Department in reference to communications from Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, and from other representatives of California. With a courage and self-reliance of which we can not as Americans be sufficiently proud, the people of San Francisco have already started in orderly and resolute fashion to rebuild the city. Immediate aid in this enterprise should be given by the Federal Government. One of the crying needs of the situation is employment for the scores of thousands of men who have lost everything. If the appropriation of \$300,000 for the Mare Island Navy-Yard be at once passed, over 2,000 men will immediately be put to work, for this appropriation will be expended only in employing labor. The appropriation is urgently needed as a means of contributing toward the reestablishment of affairs in San Francisco; it will also be of material use to the Navy.

Furthermore, I recommend that the Congress act on the recommendations of the War Department and appropriate the money necessary to establish a building as a general supply and storage depot for the supply departments of the Army and transport service on a part of the military reservation of Fort Mason. This project is set forth in Senate bill 4475 of the present session.

I have requested the Treasury and Post-Office Departments to prepare their estimates for replacing or repairing the other Government buildings in San Francisco. These estimates will be ready in a short while and will then be laid before you.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *April 25, 1906.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, April 24, 1906.*

THE PRESIDENT:

Replying to your letter of 23d instant directing that a report be made regarding the buildings required for the War Department in San Francisco, I have the honor to invite your attention to the inclosed memorandum from the Quartermaster-General relative to the establishment of a general supply and storage depot for supply departments of the army and the transport service on a part of the military reservation of Fort Mason, Cal. This project is set forth in Senate bill 4475 of the present session, upon which, in response to call therefor, the Department, on February 21 last, submitted to the chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate, reports from the Quartermaster-General, the Judge-Advocate-General, and the Chief of Staff.

The subject of establishing a general supply depot in San Francisco to cover all branches of the army service was first taken up in 1903 and has since been very fully investigated and considered by the bureaus concerned, and particularly by the quartermaster's department. The memorandum herewith from the Quartermaster-General is a résumé of the subject, from which it will be seen that the Department owned no buildings in the city of San Francisco, but occupied rented accommodations at a total annual expenditure of \$76,550. As the Quartermaster-General very pertinently remarks, this project, which was originally presented on its merits in the interests of good administration and a saving of time and expense for rentals and employees, has now assumed a character of indispensable and imperative necessity for the military service on the Pacific coast, Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands.

The amount called for has been increased from \$1,350,000 to \$1,500,000, and the amount to be immediately available from \$500,000 to \$750,000, in view of the necessity of adopting a stronger, more durable, and permanent system of construction than the type originally considered. The construction of this depot will afford ample and modern provision for all the supply departments of the Army and result in an annual saving in rent of at least \$60,000, leaving as the only branches of the service unprovided for the division and department headquarters, which are required by convenience to be located within the city; and the engineer offices, which, as stated by the Chief of Engineers in his accompanying letter, will be accommodated either through renting private quarters, or perhaps in securing quarters in the proposed new custom-house.

The War Department does not own any public buildings at Sacramento, San Jose, and Oakland.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT SHAW OLIVER,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*



[Inclosures.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS,  
Washington, April 23, 1906.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF WAR.

SIR: 1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of a letter of the President relating to estimates for public buildings in San Francisco.

2. It is not thought that the engineer department of the Army is involved in the matter, however. Heretofore two offices have been maintained in rented buildings in San Francisco in connection with river and harbor and fortification work. The office buildings occupied have been destroyed, and new provision must be made, but this will be accomplished through renting private quarters or, perhaps in the future, securing quarters in the proposed new custom-house.

3. Two companies of engineer troops are quartered at Fort Mason, but it is believed that no damage of a serious character has occurred there, and that the repairs of these garrison buildings would, in any event, be made by the Quartermaster's Department, and would be covered by estimates submitted by the Quartermaster-General under the terms of the President's letter of April 23, 1906.

Very respectfully,

A. MACKENZIE,  
*Brigadier-General, Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON-GENERAL,  
Washington, April 23, 1906.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Secretary of the Treasury, under date of January 29, 1906, in connection with H. R. 10117, for the erection of a building for the use of such Government officials as may now be occupying rented quarters at San Francisco, requested to be advised as to the space at present occupied by officials of the War Department in rented quarters.

Under date of February 5, 1906, the chief surgeon, Department of California, reported to this officer that he would require for his office (3 rooms) 952 square feet floor space; for the attending surgeon's office (3 rooms) 1,008 square feet, and the officer in charge of medical supply depot would require 47,000 square feet in the event of a Government building being erected in San Francisco.

This represents the space that has been occupied in San Francisco by the medical department. The offices of the chief surgeon and attending surgeon were in the portion of the Phelan Building occupied by Headquarters Department of California, and this office does not know what would be its proper proportion of the rental paid. The annual rent of the medical supply depot on Mission street was \$18,000 per annum.

R. M. O'REILLY,  
*Surgeon-General, U. S. Army.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSARY-GENERAL,  
Washington, April 23, 1906.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF WAR IN RE SENATE BILL NO. 4475, INTRODUCED IN THE SENATE FEBRUARY 15, 1906, BY SENATOR PERKINS.

Regarding construction at Fort Mason, Cal., of wharf, storehouse, and quarters for occupancy in lieu of the various buildings rented in San Francisco, in an inspection of the station of San Francisco made August 30 and 31 and September 1, 1905, the inspector, Colonel Chamberlain, under date of October 3, 1905, states:

"The present annual rental paid for offices, wharfage, and storage in San Francisco, for the quartermaster's depot, the transport service, the subsistence depot, and medical supply depot amounts to \$49,400.04, exclusive of \$2,592 paid for commutation of quarters for the officers on duty in connection with the said depots. That the amount so expended will diminish is very improbable. On the contrary, an increase is probable.

"In the interest of convenience and economy it is recommended that a wharf, suitable office building, storehouses, and quarters for the depot officers be constructed at Fort Mason. A suitable site, owned by the Government, is, I believe, available."

That paper was referred to this office, and the depot commissary in San Francisco, under date of November 23, 1905, reported as follows:

"Referring to your letter (173223) of the 14th instant, I have the honor to report as follows for your information:

"The Government pays \$4,800 rental, per annum, for the premises 46 Spear street, occupied in part by this depot. One-fourth of the building is used by the Quartermaster's Department, which makes the cost of the space assigned to the Subsistence Department, \$3,600 per annum.

"Subsistence stores for posts in the United States, except large lots, are assembled at the warehouse and prepared for shipment. Large lots of stores are delivered by the sellers direct to the railroad or steamers.

"Stores for use of transports are delivered direct to the transports. About 24,000,000 pounds of subsistence supplies purchased and shipped to the Philippines each year, are delivered to the transports by the sellers, saving thereby to the Government, the cost of handling, storage, and drayage.

"So far as the Subsistence Department is concerned, there would be no economy in constructing a wharf and erecting an office building, storehouse, and quarters at Fort Mason."

The Quartermaster-General, under date of November 6, 1905, stated: "This scheme of transfer of the San Francisco depot to Fort Mason was submitted by this Office to the Secretary of War with detailed estimates for buildings, roads, walks, wharves, etc., amounting to \$1,256,280, December 10, 1903. This included all the supply departments of the Army and the transport service."

On January 29, 1906, the Secretary of the Treasury wrote to the Secretary of War, referring to House bill No. 10117 for the erection of a building for the use of Government officials now occupying rented quarters at San Francisco, inquiring with regard to space at present occupied by officials in the War Department in rented quarters in the city of San Francisco, and the amount required to meet present and prospective needs, to which this Office replied as follows:

"Referring to letter dated January 29, 1906, from the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to amount of space required by War Department in proposed building in San Francisco for use of such Government officials as may now be occupying rented quarters there, which was referred by you to this office for report, I have the honor to state that the chief commissary of the Department of California will require three rooms, only two rooms being allotted now for his needs, and the depot and purchasing commissary will require 36,800 square feet of space for office, storage, and shipping facilities, while the present space occupied for this purpose is 18,420 square feet. The increase is necessary to meet prospective needs and to provide for emergencies."

From the foregoing it appears that the matter has been thoroughly considered and that detailed estimates have been submitted. As Senate bill No. 4475 appropriates an amount just about equal to the estimate of the Quartermaster-General, it is recommended that the same be returned to Congress urging favorable consideration. It is necessary that some provision should be promptly made to properly house the subsistence department in San Francisco, so as to provide for the proper supply of the transports and the forwarding of supplies to the troops in the Philippine Islands.

HENRY G. SHARPE,  
*Commissary-General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, April 23, 1906.*

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERAL SUPPLY AND STORAGE DEPOT FOR SUPPLY DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE TRANSPORT SERVICE, ON A PART OF THE MILITARY RESERVATION OF FORT MASON, CAL.

The project contemplates the construction of the necessary buildings, wharves, roads, walks, tramways, water supply, sewerage, and lighting and power plants on public land constituting a part of the military reservation, Fort Mason, Cal., locally known as Black Point.

The purpose is to do away with all the buildings and premises now rented at very high annual rentals in the city of San Francisco, Cal., and concentrate at one place

all the facilities needed for the administration and operation of the quartermasters and other supply departments of the Army, and the transport service, in connection with the military service at San Francisco and posts in its vicinity and in the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines, in so far as said operations can be conducted to advantage at that port.

As outlined in plans originally prepared in December, 1903, the project contemplated construction of:

A general office building for the administrative and clerical work of all the different supply departments of the Army.

Three storehouses for clothing, equipage, and other quartermaster supplies.

One storehouse for the subsistence department.

One storehouse for the medical department.

One general packing house.

One general repair shop.

Stables, corrals, and sheds for wheel transportation.

Power house with machinery for furnishing light, power for elevators, etc.

One storehouse for the transport service.

Construction of wharves and necessary dredging for accommodation of at least four ships of the size of the largest army transports.

Preparing ground for building sites, construction of roads, walks, drainage, sewerage, water supply, etc.

Five sets of quarters for officers of the supply departments whose services would be required at this depot.

The estimated cost of the entire project was \$1,256,250.

This did not, however, cover any expenditures for purchase of additional land, but recent developments indicate that it will be necessary to acquire by purchase or condemnation the rights of certain private owners to a part of the land which would be needed for wharves and slips for the transport service, and it was estimated that the aggregate sum needed to carry out the project as originally laid out should be increased to \$1,350,000.

The plans as heretofore considered had in view construction of brick buildings with stone or concrete foundations, but with the ordinary wooden floors and wood frame for roofing. More recent observation and experience indicate that, although first cost would be increased, it will be far preferable to adopt a stronger and more durable and permanent system of construction, having in view the use of stone, brick, and concrete masonry, with steel frames, trusses, etc. This, together with enhanced cost of material and skilled labor incident to the great demands that will be made upon all sources of supply on account of the reconstruction of the city of San Francisco, will require a greater sum than that above given to complete the project as a whole, and it is therefore recommended that the total amount be increased to \$1,500,000, and that the amount to be immediately available be increased to \$750,000.

The destruction of nearly every facility heretofore used in connection with the supply departments and the transport service in San Francisco renders it imperative that work on a larger scale than first contemplated be commenced at once.

In a memorandum on this subject prepared by this office January 17, 1906, it was stated:

"Carrying out this project would place the military establishment in San Francisco in possession of a system of terminal facilities by land and water which can not be surpassed and bring under the direct supervision of the responsible officers the operations of the transport service and the several supply departments which are necessarily related and dependent upon each for prompt and efficient service.

"The necessity for an establishment of this kind in San Francisco in December, 1903, when the report was submitted, is much greater to-day than it was then. Not only are rents rising all over the city, but it has been found impracticable to secure at any reasonable cost accommodations required for convenient and expeditious transaction of operations of the supply departments and owners of premises now held under lease have made it known in several instances that leases would not be renewed.

"With facilities for the ordinary routine operations of the military service cramped, expensive, inconvenient, and inadequate during a period of profound peace, it can be readily foreseen what would be the result if emergencies should arise rendering necessary greater activities in the transport service and the supply departments at this important port."

At this time it is known that with the exception of the rented wharf from which army transports sail, no facilities for storage of supplies and conducting the ordinary operations of the supply departments of the Army can be obtained in San Francisco, and a project which was originally presented on its merits, in the interests of good

administration and a saving of time and expense for rentals and employees, has now assumed the character of indispensable and imperative necessity for the military service on the Pacific coast, Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands.

Even if the wharf used by army transports in San Francisco is saved—of which there is at this time no positive information at hand—its relinquishment by the Army would be a great relief to the commercial shipping interests of the city.

A list of premises rented and amount of rentals in the city of San Francisco, Cal., for the various uses of the military services, also copy of report of the Judge-Advocate-General of the Army in respect to the subject of adverse claims to a part of the water-front lands at Fort Mason, Cal., and remarks of this office by indorsement of February 19, 1906, on the same subject, are inclosed.

C. F. HUMPHREY,  
*Quartermaster-General, U. S. Army.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, April 23, 1906.*

LIST OF BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES RENTED FOR USE OF THE VARIOUS BRANCHES OF  
THE MILITARY SERVICE IN SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

	Monthly rental.
For the army transport service:	
* One wharf, Folsom street.....	\$1,500.00
For harbor-boat service:	
* One wharf, Washington street, steamer <i>McDowell</i> .....	120.00
* One wharf, Washington street, steamer <i>Miglin</i> .....	120.00
For quartermaster's depot and storage:	
* One building, Montgomery street.....	666.67
* One building, Folsom and Spear streets .....	425.00
* One stable, Pine street .....	75.00
For medical department:	
* One building, Mission street, storage and supply .....	1,500.00
For subsistence department:	
* One building, Spear street.....	400.00
For administrative offices:	
Eighth floor, Grant Building, headquarters Division of the Pacific... ..	332.50
Fourth floor, Phelan Building, headquarters Department of California..	900.00
Three rooms, Rialto Building, recruiting service.....	100.00
* Commutation of quarters for five officers of the supply departments of field officers rank would be .....	240.00
Total monthly rental .....	6,379.17
Total per year.....	76,550.00

The items marked thus \* in foregoing list pertain directly to the operation of the transport and harbor service and supply departments of the Army, and aggregate—

Per month.....	\$5,046.67
Per year.....	60,560.04

The above amount, aggregating \$60,560.04 per year on the basis of prices heretofore paid, would be saved on rentals alone when the buildings and improvements contemplated are available for use.

C. F. HUMPHREYS,  
*Quartermaster-General, U. S. Army.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE JUDGE-ADVOCATE-GENERAL,  
*Washington, D. C., February 12, 1906.*

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War.

This is a proposition to establish a general supply depot on a portion of the Fort Mason Military Reservation at San Francisco, Cal. Senator Perkins desires that a bill for the purpose above stated be drafted by the Department with a view to its introduction in the Senate.



Drafts of two bills are submitted herewith: One carrying an appropriation of \$1,350,000, such appropriation to be made outright, and another authorizing the establishment of the depot in the operation of a contract system, like that now applied to the construction of works of river and harbor improvement, in which the legislative authority is given to contract for the entire improvement, with an appropriation of a sufficient sum to enable the work to be carried on for the next fiscal year, and the usual proviso that later payments are to be made in pursuance of specific appropriations of Congress.

The submerged lands in front of the Fort Mason reservation are now held in private ownership, and such parcels as are necessary for the construction of wharves will have to be obtained by a resort to condemnation proceedings. These are provided for in the bill. The question of the submerged lands was fully discussed in a report rendered by this office on the 10th instant on an offer submitted by William B. Sharp, attorney for the owners, to sell such submerged lands to the United States for \$400,000.

It was recommended by this office, for reasons stated, that Attorney Sharp's offer be declined. If a resort be had to condemnation proceedings, it is probable, in view of the easements imposed on such lands in the Constitution, that they will be acquired at a cost of from \$50,000 to \$100,000. The Quartermaster-General estimates the cost of the improvements at \$1,256,250; to this sum about \$94,000 has been added, in the draft of the bills, to cover the cost of the submerged lands.

GEO. B. DAVIS,  
*Judge-Advocate General.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,  
*Washington, February 19, 1906.*

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War.

The accompanying bill, S. 4475, Fifty-ninth Congress, first session, is in accordance with recommendation made by the Chief of Staff February 13, 1906. It embodies the appropriation that was asked for by this Office for improvements at Fort Mason, these being contained in papers forwarded to the Secretary of War December 10, 1903, containing a full report of all that relates to that part of the subject, together with the cost of submerged lands estimated by the Judge Advocate-General in the total sum of \$1,350,000. Of this the estimate for the submerged lands amounts to \$94,000.

It appears from the Judge Advocate-General's indorsement of February 12, 1906, herewith, submitting drafts of the bill, that the question of the submerged lands was discussed by him in a report rendered to the Secretary of War on the 10th instant on the subject of an offer made by William B. Sharp, attorney for the owners, to sell such submerged land to the United States for \$400,000. The recommendation of this Office concerning this offer was that no action be taken favorable to its acceptance on account of the difficulty in determining title.

This question of title is, according to the estimate of the Judge-Advocate-General, one that could reasonably be expected to be justly settled for \$94,000, and this, as stated above, is included in the appropriation of \$1,350,000.

These claims have been developing and pending for more than fifty years, and a favorable opportunity to bring the matter to a final conclusion seems never to have been offered in such manner as to give a proper solution.

The report referred to by the Judge-Advocate-General relative to the submerged land is supposed to contain all the information required to elucidate this subject, and it is presumed that all further information needed on the subject of title of these submerged lands will be found in the Judge-Advocate-General's office.

This bill as it stands appears to cover all the essential requirements to establish the depot required at Fort Mason, with a perfect title on the part of the Government to the land which has been for so long a time subject to adverse claims, and the passage of this bill is recommended.

C. F. HUMPHREY,  
*Quartermaster-General, U. S. Army.*

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NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, April 24, 1906.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your inquiry of the 24th, inclosing telegrams from Mayor Schmitz and John B. Fritsch, urging that the force of employees at Mare Island be increased to give employment to refugees, and asking for a report.

I have the honor to inform you that there is plenty of work to be done at the Mare Island Navy-Yard, but owing to the lack of funds in the Bureau of Steam Engineering all work under this Bureau at all yards is seriously hampered and the allotment is practically exhausted.

After consultation with the Bureau of Steam Engineering and the other bureaus I find that all that is necessary to start this yard up at high pressure is a special appropriation by Congress which can be used at the discretion of the Secretary of the Navy, for the purpose of employing labor only, to the extent of about \$300,000. This would permit the employment of about 2,100 men at once, as all the other bureaus have money to continue their work.

I submit herewith a draft of a bill which, with your approval, will be transmitted to Congress, and if it becomes law will accomplish the result so much desired for the employment of a large force of workmen, and at the same time prove of great value to the Navy itself.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

TRUMAN H. NEWBERRY,  
*Acting Secretary.*

The PRESIDENT.

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A BILL Authorizing the Secretary of the Navy to employ additional laborers and mechanics at the navy yard, Mare Island, California.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Navy be, and he is hereby authorized to employ such additional laborers and mechanics as may, in his judgment, be necessary for immediate service in the several departments of the navy yard, Mare Island, California; and the sum of three hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be required, is hereby appropriated for such purpose; *Provided*, that such appropriation shall be additional to the sums regularly appropriated for the employment of laborers and mechanics at the navy yard, Mare Island, and shall be immediately available.

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